

A U S T R I A

February 18, 1952 (P/23595)

SUBJECT: Information on Dr. Josef DOBRETSBERGER

Time : Beginning of February 1952  
Received: February 18, 1952

HH 1 (para 2: Dr. Josef Berger, para 4: Dr. Josef Berger, member of Austrian National Council, in connection with Upper Austrian Council of Economic Affairs, para 5: Dr. Berger)

1. Reference is made to report P/23580, dated February 11, 1952, Subject: Miscellaneous Information on Demokratische Union.

2. As DOBRETSBERGER told source, the Soviets had granted entry permits for a 40-men delegation which could accompany him to the Moscow economic conference.

(Please refer to report P/23498, dated January 7, 1952, Subject: Informations on Demokratische Union, para.1)

DOBRETSBERGER, however, has not yet made any decisions regarding the members of such delegation; he gave no names, but stated that a large number of leading Austrian businessmen show interest. (On another occasion DOBRETSBERGER claimed to hold excellent connections to 'Alpine Montan', 'Elin A.G.' für elektrische Industrie, Styria, 'Simmering-Graz Pauker A.G.', several textile industries in Vorarlberg, and 'Meinl' A.G.)

Late in summer 1952, the Moscow economic conference would be followed by a Far East conference. DOBRETSBERGER intends to participate at such congress also, which he believes will definitely break the embargo against the Soviet block. He further emphasizes that CHURCHILL was greatly interested in a success of such congress.

3. Before and after German Pastor NIEMÖLLER's trip to Moscow, DOBRETSBERGER twice conferred with NIEMÖLLER, the second time also former Reichskanzler WIRTH was present. At Moscow, both NIEMÖLLER and WIRTH had sided with DOBRETSBERGER's idea of a neutralization of Middle Europe, i.e. Germany and Austria.

4. Both, Mathias SCHLAGER and Franz SCHAFER (wood industrialist at LINZ, 13 a Blütenstrasse) endeavor to collect Upper Austrian businessmen for establishing an economic council which should support DOBRETSBERGER's economic line.

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5. DOBRETSBERGER now tries to re-establish connections with Upper Austrian Landeshaupmann Dr. Heinrich GLEISSNER, which had been interrupted for some time. GLEISSNER has allegedly agreed to meet DOBRETSBERGER in the near future at Vienna.

6. DOBRETSBERGER's brother Dr. Gottfried DOBRETSBERGER, chief of Zell am See hospital, has formed a circle of businessmen and members of CV at Zell am See, who are sympathizing with DOBRETSBERGER, but are not members of Demokratische Union.